

# **EXHIBIT DA**

## **[PUBLIC VERSION]**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF WYOMING

Defendants. )

\* SUBJECT TO A PROTECTIVE ORDER \*

ZOOM/IN-PERSON DEPOSITION OF ESTHER  
GEORGE, a Witness, taken remotely on behalf of  
the Plaintiff before Peggy E. Corbett, CSR, CCR,  
RDR, pursuant to Notice on the 9th day of  
November, 2023, at the offices of the Federal  
Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 1 Memorial Drive,  
Kansas City, Missouri 64198.

CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

Page 27

1 MR. MICHAELSON: Objection, form.

2 A. I was aware of that.

3 Q. (BY MR. ORTIZ) So as you get through  
4 this process a little bit, and I want to have you  
5 walk through this, there came a point in time  
6 that the SPDI legislation passed; is that right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And then at least one or two  
9 organizations at some point in time may have  
10 applied for a master account?

11 A. That is correct.

12 Q. And I know we've somewhat talked about  
13 it. There may be some time that an institution  
14 called Kraken applied for a master account. Is  
15 that something you were aware of?

16 A. I was aware of that.

17 Q. But primarily Avanti that became  
18 Custodia, they were the ones that were really  
19 pushing to get the master account, correct?

20 A. We were working directly with Custodia  
21 on their request.

22 Q. How many times did you personally meet  
23 with any representatives from the State of  
24 Wyoming about the SPDI charter legislation and  
25 these type of banks?

## CONFIDENTIAL - SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

Page 28

1 MR. MICHAELSON: Objection, form.

2 A. I don't recall any meetings that were  
3 specifically intended for this. Our interactions  
4 with the State Banking Department covered a  
5 broader set of responsibilities that we had.

6 So I would meet a couple of times a year  
7 with the State Banking Department about  
8 supervisory issues that we shared over  
9 State-chartered banks.

10 Q. (BY MR. ORTIZ) Do you have a good  
11 relationship with the Wyoming State Banking  
12 Commission?

13 A. I believe we do.

14 Q. Do you have a good relationship with  
15 Albert Forkner?

16 A. I believe we did.

17 Q. You did at that time, as well?

18 A. I did, yes.

19 Q. Did you have respect for him?

20 A. I did have respect for Albert Forkner.

21 Q. Respect for the way Wyoming Banking  
22 Commission went about supervising their charter  
23 banks?

24 A. Yes. We worked closely together in the  
25 supervision of our State-chartered banks.